

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections -35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 28-30 as being unpatentable in view of Applicant's co-invented commonly owned published application (Dallas et al.) in view of Donald et al.

Claim 28 is amended to call for a metal-to-metal seal similarly to allowed claim 5. No new matter has been added, and Applicant submits no further search is required. Neither Applicant's published application nor Donald et al., alone or in combination, teach or suggest a metal-to-metal seal having the claimed structure.

Claim 29 is amended to correct a typographical error.

The rejection of claims 28-30 is thereby traversed.

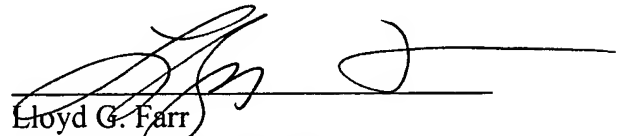
Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 2-27 are allowed.

In view of the amendment of claims 28 and 29, it is respectfully submitted that each of claims 2-30 are now in a condition for immediate allowance. Favourable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NELSON MULLINS RILEY
& SCARBOROUGH, L.L.P.



Lloyd G. Farr
Registration No. 38,446

1320 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(404) 817-6165
Fax (803) 255-9831